### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

### RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 23 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03/02/2022

#### **NEWS CHANNELS PROMOTING ANTI-NATIONAL THINKING**

#### \* 23. SHRI RAM CHANDER JANGRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking any action against the news channels and journalists who are promoting anti-national thinking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any legal provision is under consideration to put curbs on such channels and journalists in future, the details thereof?

#### **ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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# STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 23 FOR ANSWER ON 03.02.2022

(a) to (c): All programmes telecast on private satellite TV channels are required to adhere to the Programme Code laid down in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 which inter-alia provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes. The Government takes action against private satellite TV channels in cases where Programme Code is found to be violated, by way of issuing Advisories, Warnings, Apology Scroll Orders, Off-air Orders, etc. The Ministry also issues Advisories from time to time to private satellite TV channels for adhering to the Programme Code. Besides, the Cable Television Network (Amendment) Rules, 2021, notified on 17.6.2021 inter-alia provides for a three level mechanism for redressal of grievances relating to violation of Programme Code by the broadcasters.

For Print Media, Press Council of India, set up under the Press Council Act, 1978, functions with twin objectives to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Council has framed 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media, which inter-cover principles and ethics of journalism and guidelines for news reporting. These inter-alia contain norms relating to 'paramount national interest' including those which are likely to jeopardize, endanger or harm the interest of the State and Society. The Council looks into complaints against print media / a violation of Norms of Journalistic Conduct under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978.

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### भारत सरकार सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 23 (दिनांक 03.2.2022 को उत्तर देने के लिए)

राष्ट्र-विरोधी सोच को बढ़ावा देने वाले समाचार चैनल

\*23. श्री राम चंद्र जांगड़ाः

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

- (क) क्या राष्ट्र-विरोधी सोच को बढ़ावा देने वाले समाचार चैनलों और पत्रकारों के विरुद्ध सरकार द्वारा कोई कार्रवाई की जा रही है;
- (ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और
- (ग) क्या भविष्य में ऐसे चैनलों और पत्रकारों पर रोक लगाने के लिए किसी कानूनी प्रावधान पर विचार किया जा रहा है, तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

### उत्तर सूचना और प्रसारण; और युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्री (श्री अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर)

(क) से (ग): एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

# दिनांक 03.02.2022 को राज्य सभा तारांकित प्रश्न सं. 23 के भाग (क) से (ग) के उत्तर में उल्लिखित विवरण

(क) से (ग): प्राइवेट सैटेलाइट चैनलों पर प्रसारित सभी कार्यक्रमों के लिए केबल टेलीविजन नेटवर्क नियम, 1994 में निर्धारित कार्यक्रम संहिता का पालन करना अपेक्षित है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ यह प्रावधान है कि केबल सेवाओं में ऐसे किसी कार्यक्रम को नहीं प्रसारित किया जाना चाहिए जिससे हिंसा को बढ़ावा मिलने या हिंसा उकसाए जाने की संभावना हो या जिसमें कानून और व्यवस्था को बनाए रखने के विरूद्ध कोई भी बात हो या जो राष्ट्र-विरोधी प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा दे। सरकार उन मामलों में प्राइवेट सैटेलाइट टीवी चैनलों के विरूद्ध कार्रवाई करती है जिनमें कार्यक्रम संहिता का उल्लंघन पाया जाता है, जिसमें एडवाइजरी, चेतावनी जारी करना, क्षमा स्क्राल चलाने के आदेश, प्रसारण बंद करने के आदेश जारी करना आदि शामिल है। मंत्रालय प्राइवेट सैटेलाइट टीवी चैनलों को कार्यक्रम संहिता का पालन करने के लिए समय-समय पर एडवाइजरी भी जारी करता है। इसके अलावा, 17.6.2021 को अधिसूचित केबल टेलीविजन नेटवर्क (संशोधन) नियम, 2021 में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ प्रसारकों द्वारा कार्यक्रम संहिता के उल्लंघन से संबंधित शिकायतों के समाधान के लिए तीन स्तरीय तंत्र का प्रावधान है।

प्रेस परिषद अधिनियम, 1978 के तहत स्थापित, प्रिंट मीडिया के संबंध में, भारतीय प्रेस परिषद, भारत में प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता का परिरक्षण करने और समाचार पत्रों तथा समाचार एजेंसियों के मानकों को बनाए रखने और उनमें सुधार करने के दोहरे उदेश्य के साथ कार्य करती है। परिषद ने मीडिया द्वारा अनुपालन के लिए "पत्रकारिता आचरण के मानदण्ड" तैयार किए हैं जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ पत्रकारिता के सिध्दान्त और आचार तथा न्यूज रिपोर्टिंग के दिशानिर्देश शामिल हैं। इनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ "सर्वोपरि राष्ट्रीय हित" से संबंधित मानदंड दिए गए हैं जिनमें ऐसी बातों से संबंधित मानदण्ड शामिल हैं जिनसे देश और समाज के हित खतरे, संकट में आने की संभावना हो या जिनसे इन्हें नुकसान पहुंच सकता हो। परिषद, प्रेस परिषद अधिनियम, 1978 की धारा 14 के तहत प्रिंट मीडिया/पत्रकारिता आचरण के मानदंडों के उल्लंघन के विरुद्ध शिकायतों की जांच करती है।

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SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Nowadays, the Government is taking action against some particular media channels citing the reason of anti-national activities. We are also very much keen to know about anti-national activities which are happening on some channels. We are also very much concerned about it. But, the complaint in the public domain is that this Government is misusing this penal code to suppress the freedom of expression in the country, freedom of press in the country. Recently, one media channel has been given the direction to stop their telecast by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting by citing the same security issue. Sir, we would like to know whether they have done anything wrong or not. We would like to know from the Government as to what crime they have committed.

DR. L. MURUGAN: Sir, our Government is concerned about the freedom of speech and freedom of expression. I want to convey to the hon. Member that we are not in 1975, we are not in Emergency; we are in a brightened period under the Modi Government. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: That is why we are asking this question. ... (Interruptions)... Sir, this is not the way to answer. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. L. MURUGAN: I am coming to my answer. ... (Interruptions)... माननीय वेणुगोपाल जी, आपको मेरा answer सुनना तो चाहिए। You have to listen my answer. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. L. MURUGAN: Sir, Shri Venugopal's question is on media one. Sir, on media one, we are not doing anything. Sir, whatever channel permissions we are giving, all the media channels have to get security clearance from the Home Ministry. ...(Interruptions)...Sir, apart from this, this matter is subjudice also. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, as a Member of Parliament, we have right to know. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Venugopalji, he is answering, please listen. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. L. MURUGAN: Also, Sir, within two months, our Government initiated action against sixty channels. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Sir, he should read everything without the phobia.

DR. L. MURUGAN: I am not reading. ... (Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record, let him answer. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. L. MURUGAN: Their content was against the integrity of the nation and the content was against the safety of the country, so we cannot tolerate it. For example, 60 channels, it is youtube channels, twitter and facebook accounts from Pakistan were blocked because they disturbed the nation's security. That is the thing.

श्री उपसभापति : ले. जनरल (डा.) डी.पी.वत्स (रिटा.) from Lok Sabha chamber, आप अपना सवाल पृष्ठें।

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the action against the people who come on media and use the filthy language. The channels which give fake news, I would like to know whether only the action was initiated or it culminated into punishment also.

DR. L. MURUGAN: Sir, I want to convey, through this august House, to the Member again that we are concerned about the freedom of speech and freedom of expression. Sir, the Press Council of India is there. A three-tier mechanism is there.

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज़, सीट पर बैठकर बात न करें, यह रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जा रहा है।

DR. L. MURUGAN: Sir, a three-tier mechanism is there, one is self-regulatory. Then, self regulating bodies can take. Then, if the grievances are not sorted out, then, only inter-Departmental Committee is going to take the grievances, and sort it out. I want to tell that we initiated 160 cases against the TV Channels.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Question Hour is over.